

Docket No. F-7257

Ser. No. 10/018,306

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The harvesting apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein the standard distance between rows corresponds to approximately four times the extent of each of the plurality of chain elements.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The harvesting apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 3 or 4~~ claim 14, wherein each said function body adjoins an adjacent one directly.
6. (Currently amended) The harvesting apparatus according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 14, wherein each said function body includes deflection plates which are essentially vertical in function and follow an extent of each of the plurality of chain elements in a revolving direction of the link chain.

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7. (Currently amended) The harvesting apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 3 or 4~~ claim 14, wherein the plurality of chain elements are connected with one another over axle shafts at front and rear ends in a revolving direction of the link chain, and bodies of the axle of the axle shaft are embraced in a sealing manner by sleeve bodies.

8. (Previously presented) The harvesting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the deflection plates extend between the axle shafts, surfaces of said deflection plates substantially covering a region therebetween.

9. (Previously presented) The harvesting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:
said holding planes include an upper holding plane and a lower holding plane;
a lower deflection plate of the deflection plates is disposed between the cutting plane and the lower holding plane which is disposed above the cutting plane; and
an upper deflection plate of said deflection plates is disposed between said lower holding plane and said upper holding plane.

10. (Previously presented) The harvesting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the upper deflection plate is offset counter to the driving direction relative to the lower deflection plate.

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11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A harvesting apparatus for stalked plants comprising:

at least one link chain including a tight side which is moved, in use, transversely to a driving direction of the harvesting apparatus, said at least one link chain including a plurality of chain elements articulated to one another, each of said chain elements defining a uniform function body including at least one of outwardly pointing cutting means and holding means for holding cut stalks of the stalked plants provided as an integral part of said uniform function body, each said uniform function body including three planes, a lower one of said three planes being constructed as a cutting plane and a remaining two planes of said three planes lying parallel above being constructed as holding planes for the cut stalks.

15. (New) A harvesting apparatus for stalked plants, comprising:

at least one link chain including a tight side which is moved, in use, transversely to a driving direction of the harvesting apparatus, said at least one link chain including a plurality of chain elements articulated to one another, each of said chain elements defining a uniform

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function body including at least one of outwardly pointing cutting means and holding means for holding cut stalks of the stalked plants provided as an integral part of said uniform function body, each said function body adjoining an adjacent one directly.

16. (New) A harvesting apparatus for stalked plants, comprising:

at least one link chain including a tight side which is moved, in use, transversely to a driving direction of the harvesting apparatus, said at least one link chain including a plurality of chain elements articulated to one another, each of said chain elements defining a uniform function body including at least one of outwardly pointing cutting means and holding means for holding cut stalks of the stalked plants provided as an integral part of said uniform function body, the plurality of chain elements being connected with one another over axle shafts at front and rear ends in a revolving direction of the link chain, and bodies of the axle of the axle shaft being embraced in a sealing manner by sleeve bodies.

17. (New) A harvesting apparatus for stalked plants, comprising:

at least one link chain including a tight side which is moved, in use, transversely to a driving direction of the harvesting apparatus, said at least one link chain including a plurality of chain elements articulated to one another, each of said chain elements defining a uniform function body including at least one of outwardly pointing cutting means and holding means for holding cut stalks of the stalked plants provided as an integral part of said uniform function body,

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said function body including deflection plates which are essentially vertical in function and follow an extent of each of the plurality of chain elements in a revolving direction of the link chain.

18. (New) A harvesting apparatus for harvesting stalked plants cultivated in a standardized manner with a standard distance between rows, comprising:

at least one link chain including a tight side which is moved, in use, transversely to a driving direction of the harvesting apparatus, said at least one link chain including a plurality of chain elements articulated to one another and each including holding means for holding cut stalks of the stalked plants, an extent of each of the plurality of chain elements of the link chain as measured in a revolving direction of the link chain corresponding approximately to a whole number divider of a standard distance between the rows, each of said chain elements defining a uniform function body including said holding means provided as an integral part of said uniform function body, said uniform function body further including outwardly pointing cutting means provided as an integral part of said uniform function body.